

Workshop Issue 3: Strategies and Best Practices for Delivering Programs

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Discussion:

- The FSIA should examine whether there are existing food safety and security programs which might serve as models for the FSIA.
- Workshop discussion focused on program delivery options.
- Video-conferencing as a means of program delivery was embraced by the workshop participants as highly effective, available for broad audiences and technically superior; however, the technology may not be widely available, the technology itself presents difficulties due to time and translation delays and limited interaction would necessarily be entailed when utilized with large audiences.
- Internet/web-based programs were credited by the workshop participants with being relatively inexpensive, available on an ad-hoc basis and also of high technical quality; however, most regard the tool as relatively less effective than other means with the potential for technological difficulties.
- Differing legal standards of regions and countries present difficulties. For example, if a particular country does not require Hazard Analysis, Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems, the efficacy of teaching HACCP is therefore questioned.
- Training adults presents unique challenges.

Recommendations:

- **FSIA must explicitly state its capabilities and limitations and must manage expectations.**
 - Once the FSIA mission and capabilities have been established and clarified, it is important that such is readily understood throughout the Hemisphere.
 - The potential success of the FSIA could be undermined if expectations, especially in its formative stages, are unrealistic.
- **Utilize already-gathered audiences for training and educational opportunities.**
 - Industry meetings, trade organization meetings and meetings of governmental organizations present the opportunity to reach broad audiences already assembled.
 - This is a useful opportunity for training and education and is also an opportunity to educate audiences on the FSIA and its capabilities.
- **Utilize existing and develop new training modules available for broad dissemination.**
 - Such modules should be easily-accessible and available on an ad-hoc basis.
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- The FSIA should be expanded to cover all parties to and aspects of the farm-to-fork continuum.
- While the current focus is on the processing stage, a successful outcome hinges on a holistic approach to education and information.
- **Focus on training the trainer.**
 - By training individuals or groups who will, in turn, train others, a maximization of training outreach is realized.
 - It must be ensured that the trainers are qualified and capable of training others.
 - Standardization of academic programs is essential to ensure that the trainers are properly trained.
- **Identify and review existing studies related to educating adults.**
 - As noted, educating adults presents challenges different than educating children. A number of studies in this area exist which the FSIA should consult in contemplating its program delivery options.
- **FSIA should serve as a clearinghouse and accrediting body for training materials and programs.**
 - While a wealth of educational materials have been published on the issues of food safety and bio-security, there is no central accrediting body that covers these materials and ensures accuracy and aptitude. The FSIA could serve as such a body.
- **Create a central database of educational materials electronically accessible.**
 - Such a database can contain a variety of educational materials such as lectures, articles, video-conferences which students can access via the internet.
 - Training modules, such as those mentioned above, should be included.
- **Existing successful education programs should be tapped.**
 - A number of existing education programs in the Hemisphere have proven successful.
 - FSIA should draw on the experiences of such programs in creating its own.
- **Links to universities must be emphasized.**
 - Ensure the inclusion of Latin American universities to maximize educational outreach.
- **FSIA should create a methodology for pre-auditing.**
 - The methodology should be based on existing CODEX standards.
 - FSIA would not become involved in conducting pre-auditing; however, organizations such as INPPAZ, PAHO and/or IICA may.
- **Evaluations of FSIA programs must be ongoing.**
 - FSIA should draw on existing, quantifiably successful evaluation techniques and processes in generating a means of program evaluation.
 - Impact on international equivalency should be a key consideration in program evaluation.
- **FSIA's initial priority should be to focus on academic and certification programs simultaneously.**
- **Ultimately, FSIA should strive to achieve hemispheric equivalence.**